

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CU-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-03 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 SCCT-01 NIC-01

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 SY-04 OPR-02 /090 W
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P 152130Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL CALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1181

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

UNCLAS CALI 0475

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: CONTINUED STREET DEMONSTRATIONS CALI AGAINST BUS
TARIFF INCREASE

REF: CALI 470

1. CALI TODAY ENTERED ITS FOURTH CONSECUTIVE DAY OF DEMONSTRATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST THE HUNDRED PERCENT TARIFF RISE IN BUS FARES FOR SMALL BUSES (BUSETAS). LAST NIGHT THE DEMONSTRATIONS DEGENERATED INTO DISORDERLY ROCK PELTING OF BUSETAS AND PRIVATE AUTOMOBILES, AND RESULTED IN EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO WINDOWS OF BUILDINGS AND STOREFRONTS IN WIDESPREAD SECTORS OF THE CITY. THE PATTERN OF ROVING GROUPS OF BETWEEN 150 AND 300 STUDENTS, UNEMPLOYED WORKERS, AND VAGRANTS CONCENTRATING THEIR DESTRUCTION AT STRATEGIC INTERSECTIONS OF THE CITY SUGGESTS COORDINATION RATHER THAN SPONTANEITY. ESTIMATES OF PROPERTY DAMAGE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ASSESSED BY LOCAL POLICE BUT ARE CONSIDERED SUBSTANTIAL.

2. LAST NIGHT'S OUTBREAK RESULTED IN SIX KILLED, THREE ACCIDENTALLY WOUNDED BY GUNSHOTS AND NUMEROUS INJURED. POLICE REPORT
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200 ARRESTS. THE DEATHS OCCURRED WHEN THE DRIVER OF A BUSETA WAS STRUCK BY A STONE AND CRASHED THE VEHICLE INTO A BRIDGE

ABUTMENT.

3. THE GOVERNOR, THIS AFTERNOON, BANNED ALL FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE CITY AND HAS CALLED UPON THE ARMY TO ENSURE THAT THE BAN IS EFFECTIVE.

COMMENT: WHAT BEGAN THREE DAYS AGO AS A PROTEST BY SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SEIZED UPON BY LEFTIST ELEMENTS AS A MEANS TO DEMONSTRATE OPPOSITION TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. POLICE ESTIMATE THAT LESS THAN A THIRD OF THE DEMONSTRATORS LAST NIGHT WERE LEGITIMATE STUDENTS, MANY BEING UNEMPLOYED RUFFIANS ENJOYING THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE OUT AGAINST THE SOCIAL ORDER.

GOBERNACION VALLE IS HOPEFUL THAT A COMPROMISE CAN BE REACHED PERMITTING THE AUTHORIZATION OF A ONE PESO STUDENT BUS FARE. GOBERNACION HAS INFORMED THE CONSULATE THAT THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CORPORACION DE TRANSPORTES IS ARRIVING FROM BOGOTA TO CONFER WITH THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING THE PROPOSED SOLUTION PRIOR TO ITS SUBMISSION TO THE JUNTA NACIONAL DE TARIFAS FOR APPROVAL. KERR

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